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68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 799

FEDERAL AID IN CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS

DECEMBER 10, 1924—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. STERLING, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4971]

The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4971) to amend the act entitled "An act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, as amended and supplemented, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, with the recommendation that the bill do pass with the following amendment:

On page 4, line 13, strike out the words "June 30" and insert in lieu thereof "January 22."

The principle of Federal aid for the construction of roads has been established as a policy of the Government. On November 9, 1921, this policy was clearly defined in the act approved providing for the construction of a system of roads in the United States to be designated by the various States and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Since that time this system has been approved, and the Federal funds are now being expended exclusively toward the construction of roads under this system.

The appropriations heretofore made will expire on June 30, 1925, and if this policy is to be continued and the Government is to co-operate with the States in the construction of roads, further authorizations must be made for appropriations for this purpose, and your committee herewith submits an authorization covering the two succeeding years, namely, 1926 and 1927.

It is necessary that these authorizations be made at this time in order that the States may prepare the proper surveys and have approval of the Federal Government of the survey plans and specifications. This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$75,000,000 for the construction of roads for the year 1926 and also for the year 1927. It also provides for the authorization of \$7,500,000 a year for the

years 1926 and 1927 for forest roads and trails. It has been the custom for several years for the authorization for road construction through the forests to accompany the same authorization for the cooperation on constructing the public highways on the system approved.

This bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall pro rate the amount authorized to the several States on the 1st of January of each year in order that the States may advertise for bids and let contracts previous to the building season and not be delayed by the indefinite date which now obtains in the passage of the various appropriation bills.

This bill furthermore provides that the Secretary of Agriculture be authorized to rework and recondition explosives or explosive products which have been transferred to him by the Secretary of War for the improvement of roads under his direct supervision. It also provides that he may transfer some of these explosive or explosive products to other Federal agencies which may require such material for their use.

Provision is also made in this bill that States in which there are nontaxable Indian lands may have the proportional ratio of the Federal funds already allowed to them to be given the same privilege as States already receive under the provisions pertaining to unappropriated public lands.